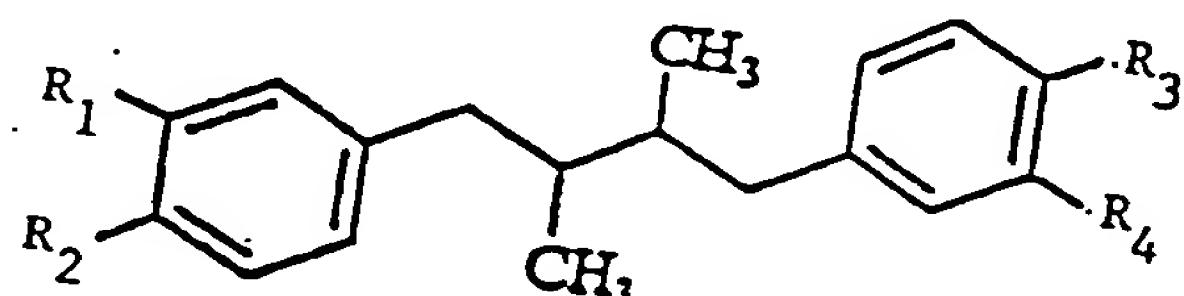


U.S. Patent Application of Huang et al.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for suppressing undesired viral growth in a host which comprises administering to the host an effective amount of 1,4-bis-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound administered is a compound of the formula:



wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are independently HO-, CH<sub>3</sub>O-, CH<sub>3</sub>(C=O)O- or functional equivalent thereof.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the functional equivalent is water-soluble.

4. The method of claim 1 for suppressing Herpes simplex virus in the host.